TRENDS

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ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN RAILROADS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, May 9, 1985 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended May 4 totaled an estimated 17.6 billion ton-miles, 1.2 percent below the corresponding week of 1984, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative volume for the first 18 weeks of 1985 was an estimated 307.4 billion ton-miles, down 3.9 percent from the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended May 4 totaled 388,703, down 3.7 percent from last year, and 0.2 percent lower than the preceding week. Compared with last year, loadings were down 4.3 percent in the East, 1.9 percent in the South and 4.3 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week last year, 15 of the 21 major commodity groups decreased. Loadings of motor vehicles and equipment were up by 1,443 cars (6.9 percent), and crushed stone, gravel and sand showed a gain of 1,979 cars (16.9 percent). Ten of 21 commodity groups increased from the preceding week.

Piggyback

The AAR reported that piggyback freight traffic on major railroads for the week ended April 27 totaled 85,284 trailers and/or containers, 0.3 percent above the corresponding week of 1984.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 17 weeks of the year was 1,424,190 trailers and/or containers, down 4.1 percent from 1984.

The figures for flatcar loadings in the weekly TOFC/COFC report have been discontinued. The increased use of longer trailers has made the figures less and less comparable to the past, as many flatcars now carry only one trailer, where they carried two before.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 5/4/85:

	Loadings in Week ended May 4, 1985		Change from Corresponding Week 1984			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	17,826	D	6,247	26.0	D	512	2.8
Other farm products	3,575	D	190	5.0	D	56	1.5
Metallic ores	19,491	I	1,255	6.9	I	3,111	19.0
Coal	111,757	D	5,974	5.1	D	2,933	2.6
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	13,706	I	1,979	16.9	I	180	1.3
Nonmetallic minerals	12,035	I	736	6.5	I	620	5.4
Grain mill products	10,117	D	771	7.1	I	172	1.7
Food and kindred products	11,214	I	205	1.9	D	253	2.2
Primary forest products	11,991	D	1,808	13.1	I	799	7.1
Lumber and wood products except furniture	7,843	I	552	7.6	D	532	6.4
Pulp, paper and allied products	14,229	D	534	3.6	D	55	0.4
Chemicals and allied products	25,902	D	304	1.2	D	724	2.7
Petroleum products	4,577	D	263	5.4	I	79	1.8
Stone, clay and glass products	11,509	D	248	2.1	I	139	1.2
Coke	5,432	D	505	8.5	D	170	3.0
Metals and products	9,766	D	1,545	13.7	D	92	0.9
Motor vehicles and equipment	22,299	I	1,443	6.9	D	1,222	5.2
Waste and scrap materials	9,111	D	663	6.8	D	186	2.0
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	6,666	D	540	7.5	I	252	3.9
All other carloads	59,514	D	1,262	2.1	I	745	1.3
LCL traffic	143	D	82	36.4	I	18	14.4
Total Cars Loaded	388,703	D	14,766	3.7	D	620	0.2
Corresponding week of 1984	403,469						

	1985	1984	% Change
Total Cars Loaded (18 weeks)	6,676,132	7,045,695	D 5.2
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):			
17 Weeks ended April 27	289.8	301.9	D 4.0
Week ended May 4	17.6	17.9	D 1.2
18 weeks cumulative	307.4	319.7	D 3.9

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